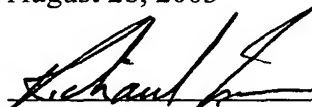


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lowery, <i>et al.</i>)	I hereby certify that this correspondence is
Application Serial No.: unknown)	being deposited with the U. S. Postal
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Group Art Unit: Unknown)	Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,
Examiner: Not yet known)	Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date
)	shown below.
)	August 28, 2003
)	
)	Richard Zimmermann

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to subjecting the above-referenced application to examination on the merits.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the claims, drawing, and abstract: none.

Remarks begin on page 5.